



# Hilltop News

An HCA (Canterbury) Community Service publication

Registered Charity No 1096781

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Sarah Guest  
Terry Maple  
Dave Sackett  
John Richardson



## HILLTOP HARVEST CELEBRATION



On Monday 7 October a near capacity crowd of 50 people attended the annual Harvest Supper in St Faith's Hall. It was a highly successful event and the magnificent profit of £408 was donated to the Hilltop Community Association. The preparation had begun on the previous Sunday morning with volunteers decorating the hall and creating the superb display for the Harvest Table. The Harvest Praise Service was held at 6pm that evening after which the tables were laid up with cloths, cutlery and glasses ready for the next evening. At 5.30pm on the Monday back came the volunteers to put out the food which they had been chopping, slicing and baking during the day. It was a wonderful spread and much enjoyed by all. After the meal Chris Ives played his traditional role of auctioneer and had no trouble in selling all the lovely produce as the quality was excellent this year. Chris, who organises the event, was full of praise for his loyal team



who always play such a vital role in putting it all together and without whom it just couldn't happen. As well as thanking all the local residents who donated fruit, vegetables, plants and raffle prizes, Chris was also pleased to be able to acknowledge the generosity of the following local businesses: Lower Hardres Farm Shop for the large fruit and vegetables hamper, and discount on the potatoes; Iffin Meadows Farm for apples, pears and eggs; Nancy and Sarah Guest for eggs and pork; Patrick Hillman for honey and Tracey Smith for beautiful floral arrangements. The evening



also gave an opportunity for trustee Dave Sackett to say goodbye and thank you on behalf of the Hilltop Community to the Reverend Clive Todd, and to wish him well in his new appointment in Yorkshire. Above Harvest celebrants, also above Betty's basket cake, right hand side Carole and Tracy with produce display.

**Goodbye,** We were very sorry to see our vicar, Clive Todd, leave our community. We wish him well in his new group of Parishes in Yorkshire. The Trustees have sent him a card and book token on behalf of the Hilltop Community



## Hilltop residents in Whitstable Carnival

Always ready to help, several Hilltop residents worked with the Friends for Mental Health (East Kent) on their entry for the 2013 Whitstable Carnival, which was based on Alice in Wonderland. The "Wonderland Wanderers" gained a first prize cup in their class, and Cheryl Ives who coordinated the entry would like to say a big thank you to everyone from Hilltop who got involved. It was a lot of hard work but such great fun.



# Diary of Events

## Weekly Events:

### Friday Evening Social

All welcome for a chat

## Monthly Events:

### Craft & Chat afternoon

Second Tuesday of month

14.00 all welcome

### Coffee Morning

Last Thursday of month

10:30 just come along

### Wellness Clinic

Wed Nov 13th 14:00

Wed Nov 13th 19:30

Wed Dec 11th at 14:00

Wed Dec 11th at 19:30

## Coming Events:

### HCA Main Committee

Wed Nov 20th at 19:30

### Trustees meeting

Wed Nov 20th at 19:30

Wed Dec 18th at 19:30

### Charity Bingo

Sat Nov 16th at 19:00

### Christmas Fair

Sat Nov 23rd at 11:00

### Wine & Wisdom

Sat Nov 30th at 19:30

### Bingo

Tue Dec 3rd at 19:00

### Hilltop news copy deadline

Thurs Jan 25th / items to

Trisha

Remember you can book the hall  
for your own use. Just contact  
Terry Maple on 01227 761329

## Hall Hire Charges

### Private Parties and Functions:

HCA Residents: £10:00 per hour

Non-Residents: £12:50 per hour

Security and damage Deposit

£20:00 CASH

Returned after 7 days if no damage,

cleaning required etc.

### Business / Exhibition Uses:

Details on Hire Charges available  
on application.

## Joan Gower's Nature Notes

Here we are again past the equinox and the days are shortening noticeably. After the very late Spring the summer arrived with an incredible amount of hot weather which managed to kill off some of my plants which had survived the cold. Every cloud has a silver lining they say and it was a wonderful opportunity for me to go up the road and come back loaded with new plants, some old friends and some new ones to try. Fortunately it rained shortly after they had been planted and now there is almost always dew in the mornings so I have a lot to look forward to. After all the butterflies in the last issue I have not seen so many, but did see a clouded yellow which I have never seen before. A resident near the end of New House Lane said that one of her shrubs was alive with small blues in August, while I have seen none since spring.

One of my usual informants left a card in my door with a photo of a sparrow hawk which was sitting on her lawn. We wondered if it was a youngster which had ignored parental guidance and was sitting and waiting for prey to come to it. Seriously as it sat there for about half an hour it must have been sick or injured, but there is nothing we can do in such a situation.

In the last issue I said that the hedgerows were white with hawthorn, cow parsley and elderflowers. The hawthorn has produced an incredible crop of berries. I don't know about elderberries but the birds should not go short of haws this year. Last winter I recall that there had been a failure of beech mast and acorns leading to the possibility of the death of jays. They were indeed very obvious winter as they came to the garden feeding stations as their native food was short. I don't know how many survived as there does not seem to be any information on it, as indeed is the fact that the bad news regarding the disease of Ash trees last autumn seems to be nil. We have several ash trees in the copse opposite and all seems to be well. Does anyone know what the national situation is?

Now that the large conifer that overhung my feeding station has been taken down there is nowhere for the birds of prey to hide, but like the previous sparrow hawk they do not seem to mind being seen as they quite often sit on the felled trunk or on the fence in full view. I have seen two kestrels flying across the garden in early September a buzzard circling lazily very high, probably over the fields bordering New House Lane. This is not a local sighting, but a friend rang me from Eastry. She works on a farm that has a large amount of 'set aside' land and a small wood. It is farmed organically and the wild flowers are wonderful, particularly cowslips. It follows that there are multiple birds and mammals. Again in early September while the farmer and his son were working in a barn an owl flew over their heads. There was an owl box and as they had no idea if it was occupied or not they checked it out. There were three naked chicks. Very late, but she told me that it possible that they would survive and they have. No-one has been up to look, so we do not know if they are all alive, but the adults are feeding. I will keep you posted. I wish they were here. That's all this time. Joan 451492.

**P.S. Re Iffin:** I read and re-read Carole Davies article on Iffin Lane with interest. This is the sort of thing we have the newsletter for. It is a great pity more people don't contribute. Yes Carole it was spelt differently until the present century. When we moved into Iffin lane in the late 50's the signpost at the top of Hollow Lane pointed to Iffin Lane and the one at the junction with the downs pointed to Iffen lane. The word GEOGUO meaning youth, young people and the meaning of the whole word 'GEOGOUINGAS' probably meaning youthful dwellers made me smile. Its definitely time I was not here!



## Christmas Fayre

At St Faiths Hall, New House Lane

**Saturday 23rd November 11am – 1pm**

We are holding our Hilltop Community Christmas Fayre and would like to see you there. Father Christmas is making a stopover, so bring the children to have their photo taken and receive a present.

There will be our usual lovely raffle with £100.00 hamper. £100.00 in cash plus many other prizes. Also super Tombola, cake stall, 'Name the teddy', Treasure map, Handmade Christmas cards and as always refreshments.

Tracy will be there to take orders for her beautiful Christmas wreaths and floral decorations.

Please come along and make it a super event for everyone.



## Craft & Chat Tuesdays get off to good start

Betty Wallace and Chris Ives had the brilliant idea of having a social afternoon at St. Faiths and Carol Davies supported it. The first event was held on the 8th of October at 2pm. About 20 people attended and there was plenty of chat and laughter as well as knitting, patchwork and crochet.

It will be held on the second Tuesday of each month between 2-4pm. Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> and continuing next year. Dates will be published in the Hall diary and Hilltop news. The cost is just £1 for cuppa. Feel free to bring along knitting or anything else you are interested in, be it art, games or puzzles or just bring yourself for a friendly chat.



## Community Walk

We had a very good showing for the Community Walk this year, with all ages well represented. The weather was glorious and being able to walk or cycle along the Great Stour Way is such a boon hopefully **The Friends of Hambrook Marsh** will be successful in their bid to get the land registered as a community asset and protect it from developers.

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## Music Night

At the end of September we had Don back at Hill Top community hall by popular demand. He sang a selection of 'golden oldies' by request and thoroughly entertained an enthusiastic audience. We made a grand total of £120 on the night towards hall funds and thank all of you who supported this local event. If anyone knows of any local talent who could provide us with an evenings entertainment please contact **John Richardson** on 01227 463437.



## SUDOKU no 6

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## HAVE YOU USED THE HILLTOP COMMUNITY TAXI YET?

This subsidised service runs every Wednesday from Hilltop to Canterbury Bus Station, leaving St Faith's Hall at 10.00 am and returning at 1.00pm....

**ONLY £2 per single journey**

For the sake of keeping the taxi going for our regulars who do not have transport, please, please consider using it, even if it's only once in a while.

**Phone Longleys Taxis on 01227 710777** to book your seat  
You can book at anytime up to 9.00am on the morning of your journey



## From your Parish Council



Councillor  
Graham Page

Chairman TWPC

01227 462508

In my last report I dealt with the potential sale of Hambrook Marsh and the implications this could have on the much used Great Stour Way which runs from Chartham to Canterbury for cyclists and pedestrians alike. I promised to keep you updated as to what is going on. The latest news is that Canterbury City Council have put in a request for that section of the path to be registered as a **Public Right of Way**. There is a possibility of it also being registered under the Cycle Track Act.

I understand from a recent meeting that there is a local lady who has expressed interest in purchasing the land. **The Friends of Hambrook Marsh** have sent in a request to CCC for the land to be registered as a Community Asset, but this has been put on hold pending possible sale of the land. The majority of the audience at the meeting were in favour of the Friends of Hambrook Marsh registering as a charity, with a view to fundraising if a suitable purchaser cannot be found. The current asking price is in the region of £150,000.

The elevated footpath between Hollow Lane and New House Lane has been a cause of much concern, certainly over the last 50 years, and a number of years ago, the Parish Council arranged for the section that is within the parish to be fenced for the safety of pedestrians, as in some places there is a sheer 20 ft drop onto the road.

I am delighted that the remainder of the footpath has now also been fenced, thanks to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has put pressure on CCC to get the partially demolished building on Ashford Road pulled down completely. This has been an eyesore for some time now, and as a result of our protestations has been now been demolished.

The Parish Council decided earlier in the year to adopt the two flower beds at the bottom of Strangers Lane which had rose bushes in, but were looking very shabby.

New plants were placed, and although recent wet weather had caused a number of weeds to shoot up, we have arranged for our gardening contractors to keep these beds under control, and at the time of writing (mid October) the weeds have been removed, and the beds are looking much neater again.

For news around the parish, check out our website which gives dates of forthcoming meetings, minutes of previous meetings, history of the parish and much much more!

## From the Hilltop Chair



Sarah Guest

Chairman  
Hilltop Trustees

01227 765703

### Dear All,

At last Hilltop community association has been granted a lease; yes after all this time. It hasn't been for the want of trying! Terry, Roger and Richard have worked very hard to formulate the clauses in the lease and with the help of our solicitor I think the result is the best we could achieve for Hilltop. Now we have the lease, this will give us the control of any future development and enable us to seek funding from outside agencies. The development of the hall is for the community to take forward. In the past many opportunities have arisen which we would have liked to take advantage of if we had this freedom.

Well now it is over to you Hilltop community. Many times we have heard 'if only we had', so please come along to share your views at the General Committee Meeting (the next one is November 20th 7.30pm at the hall).

We have regular events coming up, such as our yearly raffle and Fair on November 23rd 11-1pm when Father Christmas will be stopping off to see us. Don't forget to get your raffle tickets back to Roger or any trustee will pass them on.

David Swain is doing the popular Christmas bingo Tuesday 3rd December which starts at 7pm and there is a Wine & Wisdom Saturday 30th



November at 7pm. Contact Roger for a table.

Sadly we said goodbye to Clive the Vicar who was much liked throughout the community, he is going to be a hard act to follow.

Finally **'thank you'** to all the people at Hilltop who volunteer, bake cakes, man stalls, mend toilets, cut grass, deliver leaflets, attend meetings, organize and support events, support the 100 club, buy raffle tickets, or just come along and enjoy the events, we are all very grateful.

### Seasons Greetings to Everyone

### By the way.....

- The profits over the year from the 100 Club members are enough to cover the cost of the electricity for the Hall for the year.
- Hall rental fees from 2011 and 2012 made the Community enough to buy the new Marquee Tent.
- Terry Mick and Andy walked the Great Glen last year and raised £2400 for the Hill Top Community. This was further boosted by Gift Aid of £430.
- The Harvest Supper is raising £300-£400 each year—more than enough to cover the water bills.
- This year's Summer Barbecue raised a record of £450.

To all those well wishers who give their time and get involved supporting the Community in so many different ways a very **Big Thank You!**

Editor—Trisha Cheeseworth  
01227 761642

## 100 Club Winners for August, September & October

Prize	August	September	October
£50	R. Cheeseworth	Joyce Burt	B Markham
£30	A. Rubins	A. Rubins	Richard Gambell
£20	Mick Hopkins	F. Roche	Fiona Roche
£10	G & M Porter	T. Cogger	Audrey Allen

[100club@hilltopca.co.uk](mailto:100club@hilltopca.co.uk)